GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2063
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2001
EXPENDITURE ON TOURS BY OFFICIALS OF ITPO
AKHILESH YADAV;TUFANI SAROJ

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item published in Delhi edition of Hindi Dainik `Rashtriya Sahara` dated 16 June, 2001 under the caption `Sair Sapate Per Lakhon Ura Rahen Hain ITPO Ke Afsar`;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the number of officers of ITPO who went on foreign tours during 1999-2000 and till June 2001;

(d) the year-wise, details of the expenditure incurred on the foreign tours; and

(e) the effective steps that the Government have taken to save crores of rupees of the country by putting a ban on foreign tours of the officers of this organisation?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a) & (b) : Yes Sir. As the premier trade promotion agency of the Government of India, India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO), undertakes various trade promotion activities abroad such as organisation of exclusive Indian Trade Shows, participation in general/specialized commodity fairs, Buyer Seller Meets, Contact promotion Programmes, Product Promotion Programmes, Catalogue shows, Market Surveys etc ITPO organised 59 events abroad in 1999-2000, 56 events in 2000-2001 and 13 events in the first quarter of the current financial year. These programmes are arranged after approval of the Exhibition Advisory Committee in the Department of Commerce. It becomes necessary to depute minimum required number of officials to manage various organizational activities connected with the events i.e. supervision of construction/ decoration, arranging timely clearance of exhibits and their display in the Pavilion, coordinating visits of the buyers and their meetings with the Indian counterparts.

(c) & (d) : The number of officers deputed abroad and the expenditure incurred for the above events is as under :-

Year	No. of Officials deputed	Expenditure incurred (Rs. In lakhs)
1999-2000	103	296.11
2000-2001	109	418.35 (Provisional)
1.4.2001 to 30.6.2001	19	53.95 (Provisional)

The expenditure is incurred on various items namely ; to and fro air fare, per diem allowance, accommodation, conveyance, telephone and other miscellaneous items.

(e) : Travelling abroad by officials of ITPO is essential to fulfil the aims and objectives for which the organization has been set up. There is no proposal to ban their foreign tours which are undertaken in furtherance of the objectives of the organisation. However, ITPO endeavours to depute minimum number of officials for each event with a view to economising on expenditure.